

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of cleaning a substrate in order to remove adsorbed prion infectivity, which comprises washing the substrate with a concentrated salt solution of a concentration of at least 1.0M.
2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the substrate is a chromatographic material.
3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the substrate is an adsorbent used in the purification of proteins or other macro molecules.
4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the substrate is a surgical instrument, electrode or other substrate brought into contact with the body during a surgical procedure.
5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the substrate is meat processing equipment employed in abattoirs.
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein the salt solution has a concentration of at least 1.5M.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein the salt solution has a concentration of at least 1.75M.
8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein the salt cation is sodium, potassium or ammonium.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein the salt is sodium chloride.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1 wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium citrate, sodium acetate, sodium gluconate, sodium sulphate, potassium chloride, lithium chloride or ammonium chloride.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein the method is employed to clean a substrate involved in the fractionation of human plasma.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim,~~ Claim 1 wherein the concentrated salt wash is followed by washing with an alkali.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12 wherein the alkali has a concentration of 0.05M to 0.5M.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12 ~~or 13~~ wherein the alkali brings the pH at the substrate to at least 12.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of Claims 12 to 14~~ Claim 12 wherein the substrate is contacted with the alkali for 0.5 to 2 hours.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 comprising a further concentrated salt wash.

In re: Foster et al.
Application Serial No. To be assigned
Filed: Concurrently herewith
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International Appl. No.: PCT/GB03/02378
International Filing Date: May 30, 2003

17. (Original) Salt solution of a concentration of at least 1.0M for use in cleaning a substrate in order to remove adsorbed prion infectivity.